

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A face identification device comprising:
detection means for detecting face images from human body images taken by a camera;
storage means in which a face image of a specific person is previously stored;
determination means for determining whether a face image detected by said detection means matches with the face image stored in said storage means by comparing both face images; and
abstraction means for applying an abstraction process to a predetermined face image out of the face images detected by said detection means in order to make the predetermined face image unrecognizable,
said abstraction means applying the abstraction process exclusively to a detected face image when said determination means determines that both face images do not match with each other, and not applying the abstraction process to a detected face image when said determination means determines that both face images match with each other.
2. (Original) The face identification device according to claim 1, wherein said abstraction process is a mosaic process for making a face image portion mosaic.
3. (Original) The face identification device according to claim 1 or 2, wherein said determination means determines that both face images match with each other, a detected face image is not applied with the abstraction process and is applied with a marker.

4. (Currently Amended) The face identification device according to ~~claim~~ any one of claims 1 to 3, wherein when a face image detected by said detection means is determined to match with the face image stored in said storage means, the image of the specific person which is not applied with the abstraction process on the face and remaining parts thereof and the images of people other than ~~the~~ a specific person which are applied with the abstraction process exclusively on the faces thereof are displayed, and a warning is also outputted.

5. (Currently Amended) A face identification method comprising the steps of:
detecting face images from human body images taken by a camera;
determining whether a detected face image matches with the face image previously stored face image by comparing both face images;
applying an abstraction process exclusively to a detected face image in order to make the detected face image unrecognizable, when it is determined that both face images do not match with each other; and
not applying the abstraction process to the detected face image when it is determined that both face images match with each other.

6. (New) A face identification system comprising:
at least one video camera for acquiring images of people; and
a face identification device for comparing said acquired images with images stored in said face identification device to determine whether at least one of said acquired images matches at least one of said stored images, and if said face identification device determines that said match does not exist, changing said at least one of said acquired images to make said at least one of said acquired images unrecognizable.

7. (New) A face identification system comprising:
a computer;
image input circuitry that provides input images to the computer; and
stored face image data for a set of at least one registered face;
the computer executing a procedure that includes:
 detecting a set of faces in an input image; and
 for each face in the set of detected faces, comparing it with the stored face
image data; and if the face does not match any of the set of registered faces, making the
face unrecognizable in a version of the input image.
8. (New) The system of claim 7 in which the computer makes the face
unrecognizable by applying a mosaic process.
9. (New) The system of claim 7 in which the procedure further includes storing
the version of the input image.
10. (New) The system of claim 7 in which the input circuitry includes a digital
camera.
11. (New) The system of claim 7 in which the input circuitry includes a scanner.
12. (New) A face identification system comprising:
a computer;

stored image version data for a version of an original image in which a face in the original image has been made unrecognizable; and

stored face image data for a registered face;

said computer executing a procedure that includes:

using the stored image version data to reconstruct an original image;

detecting a set of faces in the reconstructed original image; and

for each face in the set of detected faces, comparing the face with the stored face image data and if the face matches the stored face image data, providing an indication of a match.

13. (New) A face image detection method comprising:

detecting a set of faces in input image; and

for each face in the set of detected faces, comparing it with stored face image data and if the face does not match any of the set of stored image face data, making the face unrecognizable in a version of the input image.

14. (New) A face image detection method comprising:

reconstructing an original image using stored image version data, the stored image version data being for a version of the original image in which a face in the original image has been made unrecognizable;

detecting a set of faces in the reconstructed original image; and

for each face in the set of detected faces, comparing it with the stored face image data and if the face matches a registered face, providing an indication of a match.

15. (New) A face image detection method comprising:

detecting a set of faces in an input image, comparing each face in the set of detected faces with stored face image data; and if the face does not match any of the stored image face data, applying a mosaic process to make the face unrecognizable in a version of the image; and

if the face matches stored image face data, applying a marker to the face in the version of the image and providing a name of the matching stored image face data; and

storing the version of the image.